

Reply to Office Action of: July 13, 2006

AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as follows:

Please amend paragraph [058] to read:

[058] The center of gravity of a person's body is located at approximately lumbar to at or about the height of the navel. The center of rotation as illustrated in FIGs. 16D and 16E passes through the axle 46. When the socket is placed at a level attitude in relation to the ground with the knee unit at a level position, it is possible to gain as much as 1.5" in terms of the anterior shifting of the center of gravity in relation to the center of rotation or axle 46. In dealing with manipulating the weight line passing through the gravity center, when the tilt of the platform is forced to an anterior position, the center of gravity is forced to be in a more anterior or forward position. This[[,]] brings the weight line anterior to the center of rotation or axle 46 by an increased factor.

Please amend paragraph [059] to read:

[059] Raising or lowering the support bar or stop 72 of the knee cage allows the prosthetic knee to flex beyond 180° or less than 180°. When the flexion is beyond 180° or when the anterior slanting position is reached, additional stability is insured. On the other hand, when the flexion is less than 180°, or the posterior

Reply to Office Action of: July 13, 2006

slanting position is accomplished, the controlled position of the knee unit is insured. This condition might be desirable for some patients having extremely long limbs. In the elderly population, and in the majority of the amputee population, increased stability not only becomes desirable for safety, but it is also necessary to insure that these patients do not fall. Some patients have knee flexion contractures. This occurs due to shortening of the ligamental ~~ligemental~~ structures and the tendon structures in their leg, causing the patients to have less than full extension, in terms of their hip flexing muscles. In the invention this condition can be accommodated by adjusting the knee cage in such a way so as to accommodate the knee flexion contracture. The stability of a patient can be maintained by adjusting the ankle of the tibia in relation to the foot. This brings the weight line anterior in relation to the femoral socket or the trans-femoral socket in relation to the center of gravity of the body.

Please amend paragraph [062] to read:

[062] The prosthetic knee assembly of the invention is positioned within the cage 110 and consists of a double cylinder arrangement 122 and a control valve-bladder sub-assembly 124, etc. These elements form a part of an independent ~~from each other~~ a hydraulic system 121 and a pneumatic system 123. With respect to the connection with the platform 114, a gas or air cylinder unit 128 and a

Reply to Office Action of: July 13, 2006

hydraulic cylinder unit 126 are arranged tandemly on either side of the axle 146 of the prosthetic knee cage 110.

Please amend paragraph [075] to read:

[075] To summarize the above, [[as]] the kinetic energy generated by the compression of the bladder 132 forces the fluid into the hydraulic chamber 140 and ~~causing~~causes the hydraulic piston 136 to be pushed outward or toward the upper prosthetic limb member. ~~—, resulted~~Such action results in the pivotal motion of the platform 114 of the knee cage upward (as illustrated by the arrow B in FIG. 25). This motion places the gas piston 133 into a retracted or downward position, causing compression of the gas in the gas cylinder 128. Significantly, initially during the downward motion of the piston 133 the gas is pressurized in the gas chamber 139. This occurs in view of the compressible nature of the gas. As the gas or air is being further compressed, the restrictive forces make it more difficult for the piston 133 to reach the bottom of the gas cylinder 128, resulted in minimizing the terminal impact. The adjustable bleeding nature of the gas valve 141 positioned at the bottom of the gas cylinder 128 is capable of releasing air in a controlled fashion, and to inhibit the rapid and uncontrolled return of the prosthetic knee and the platform of the knee cage to its most forward or downward position.

Reply to Office Action of: July 13, 2006

In this manner, a resultant damaging force and loud noise are minimized or completely eliminated.

Please amend paragraph [076] to read:

[076] The adjustable prosthetic knee cage which was previously described with reference to FIGs. 1-20 is also adaptable for use with the prosthetic knee having an in line piston arrangement. The structure and operation of this prosthetic knee do not form as essential part of the invention and have been disclosed in full detail ~~disclosed~~ by the U.S. patent application S.N 10/278,361 filed October 23, 2002, which this application incorporates by reference. Similar to the prosthetic knee having the dual piston arrangement previously discussed with reference to FIGs. 21-29, as illustrated in FIG. 30 the in line piston arrangement also includes a multi piston structure which is movably connected to the platform **214** of the cage by a single pivot mount **224**, which is situated in the platform **214** posterior to the central axle **246**.

Please amend paragraph [077] to read:

[077] In the prosthetic knee having the in line piston arrangement a gas piston cylinder **262** is provided outside the hydraulic cylinder **232**. The bottom of a gas

Reply to Office Action of: July 13, 2006

cylinder 262 is formed with an upwardly facing lip edge 266. The cap 270 seals the hydraulic cylinder 232 and also traps the gas between that seal and the bottom portion of the concentric gas plunger 272. A closing cap 228 is provided at the top of the gas cylinder 262, so as to fixedly receive the piston rod 226 which extends between the pivot mount 224 and the hydraulic piston 234. As the platform 214 of the knee cage is moved downwardly, the piston 234 pushes the hydraulic fluid through the system in a manner discussed hereinabove. In this motion, in view of the permanent connection between the piston rod 226 and the gas cylinder 262, the gas chamber 268 is also expanded. This is because the gas cylinder 262 moves up and down in relation to a fixedly positioned gas plunger 272, 274 that is mounted on the cap 270 of the hydraulic unit. In this motion the gas volume increases, as the platform 214 is tilted or moved downwardly. In this action more gas enters the chamber 268 between the plunger 272, 274 and the bottom portion 264 of the gas cylinder. When the unit is extended, as a result of the kinetic energy stored in the bladder 250240, the gas accumulated in the chamber 268 is being compressed. In this manner, as the platform 214 of the cage returns to its normal position, the bottom portion 264 compresses the gas against the plunger 272 and traps gas therebetween. As the distance between the bottom portion 264 and plunger 272 decreases, gas is gradually and substantially pressurized. The pressurized gas slows down the swing phase, damping the

Reply to Office Action of: July 13, 2006

terminal impact. A gas valve 276 is provided at a lower portion of the gas cylinder 260. As the gas is compressed in the chamber 268, it is allowed to escape through the valve 276. During the initial stages of the swing phase, gas is compressed rapidly in the chamber 268 until the pressure reaches a point where it cannot be compressed rapidly. During the slow rate of compression gas is allowed to escape through the valve 276 and therefore damp[[ing]] swing phase. This arrangement minimizes or eliminates terminal impact, so that there is a proper rate of return for the distal portion of the leg. The gas in the form of air is used as a medium because initial compression is easy until the pressure builds up and the last portion of the travel becomes more difficult. This occurs when the maximum amount of damping power is needed just before the leg becomes fully extended, so that it does not advance too rapidly without causing a resultant klunk.

Please amend paragraph [080] to read:

[080] Actuation of the cam valve 134 in the prosthetic knee of the invention is associated with at least one of the following three modalities. One mode of operation is mechanical in nature and operates by providing a connector or cable 147 between the prosthetic knee and a movable ankle or foot 119 (see FIG. 21). When the foot is in plantar~~planter~~ flexion or when the ankle position allows plantar~~planter~~ flexion of the foot, the connector or cable 147 pulls on the lever or

Reply to Office Action of: July 13, 2006

arm 145 which locks the cam valve 134 into a closed position preventing flexion of the knee. As the leg is brought into a vertical position, the cam valve 134 is placed into an open position, thereby allowing the flow of fluid from the hydraulic cylinder 126 into the bladder chamber 150.

Please amend paragraph [081] to read:

[081] The prosthetic knee of the invention is also adaptable for operation in the electro-mechanical mode, whereby a switch located on the plantar surface of the foot or the bottom surface of the foot can be activated. Such activation elicits a response from a ~~servo~~ servo to pull the arm 145 into a position in which the foot contacts the floor. The cam valve 13445 is allowed to be placed into a position facilitating the drop of the ball into the seat, so as to seal the unit. Such action prevents flow of the fluid through the prosthetic knee leading to complete stoppage of the flexionability of the knee.